



Preparedness News and Information

From FEMA's Preparedness Division

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THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WEEK EDITION

NATIONAL NEWS

September 11 Anniversary Puts Spotlight Back on Ground Zero

World AFP, September 10, 2003

The United States may be better prepared now than it was on the morning of September 11, 2001 and for the anniversary, security patrols will be stepped up in New York, but unlike last year the Department of Homeland Security has no plans to raise the national terrorist alert level.

- [Ceremonies in Washington, New York Mark Sept. 11 Anniversary](#), *GovExec*, September 11

Travel Safety Improved, Say Lawmakers

NY Times, September 10, 2003

Lawmakers say some gaps in transportation security remain, despite many improvements since the Sept. 11 attacks, citing security loopholes at the nation's ports and the potential threat that a missile could hit an airliner on takeoff or landing at airports

- [Transportation Security Effort Fragmented, Underfunded](#), *GovExec*, September 9

FEMA Promotes Mutual Aid

FEMA Press Release, September 8, 2003

FEMA's Preparedness Division recently awarded a \$2 million grant to the National Emergency Managers Association to help develop a model intrastate mutual aid agreement that could be used by any state without such an agreement or compact in place.

Bush Plans to Tout Security Improvements

Associated Press, September 10, 2003

On the eve of the second anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, President Bush is embarking on two days of events in which he will claim progress bolstering America against future attacks.

- [Bush Calls for Broader Police Powers to Fight Terrorism](#), *NY Times*, September 10
- [Homeland Security Agency Garners Praise, Criticism](#), *Atlanta-Journal Constitution*, September 11

Two Years Later, Difficult Questions Remain

GovExec, September 11, 2003

Two years after the attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Center, the federal government continues to define its mission for sheltering the homeland and to organize itself to provide a broad antiterrorist shield.

First Responders Need National Standards, says Former Lawmaker

GovExec, September 9, 2003

Local "first responders" to emergencies will not be able to effectively react to a terrorist attack until they have a national standard for response, according to former Senator Warren Rudman.

Fake IDs Remain Huge Security Risk

Associated Press, September 9, 2003

The nation remains vulnerable to terrorists using false identification documents, claim government investigators who say they were permitted to drive a truck into a Justice Department courtyard using false identification cards.

Los Alamos Researchers Develop Quick Dirty Bomb Analysis Technique

GovExec, September 11, 2003

Researchers at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico have developed a method for quickly identifying the components of a "dirty bomb" and discovering the culprits behind such an attack.

CONGRESS

Former House Speakers Urge Permanent Homeland Security Panel

GovExec, September 9, 2003

A pair of former House speakers Tuesday urgently implored the House Rules Committee to move now and not wait another year to recommend the formation of a new standing committee to oversee the nation's homeland security.

House Chairman Favors Temporary Terrorist-Threat Center

GovExec, September 5, 2003

The new Terrorist Threat Integration Center (TTIC) for compiling terrorism information from various agencies must be temporary if the Homeland Security Department is not to violate its statutory requirements, the chairman of a congressional oversight committee said on Friday.

RECENT HEARINGS

- [Nuclear Terrorism Prevention: A Review of the Federal Government's Progress toward Installing Radiation Detection Monitors at U.S. Ports and Borders](#), House Energy and Commerce Committee, September 9
- [Combating Terrorism: Preparing and Funding First Responders](#), House Government Reform Committee, September 10
- [Terrorism: Two Years After 9/11, Connecting the Dots](#), Senate Judiciary Committee, September 10
- [Perspectives on 9/11: Building Effectively on Hard Lessons](#), House Select Committee on Homeland Security, September 10

RECENT LEGISLATION

- **H.R.3037:** To strengthen antiterrorism investigative tools, and for other purposes, *House Judiciary Committee*, September 9
- **S.1599:** A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a study of the feasibility of implementing a program for the full screening of passengers, baggage, and cargo on Amtrak trains, and for other purposes, *Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation*, September 9

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Virginia Given \$37 Million In Bioterrorism Preparedness Grants

WAVY, September 9, 2003

Virginia will receive bioterrorism preparedness money to be dispersed in six subject areas: leadership and planning, hiring of more epidemiologists, enhancing the state's Division of Consolidated Laboratory, improving communications systems, hiring of public information officers, and training and educating health care providers on giving vaccines.

Lake County Council OKs Mutual Aid Pact for Region

Post Tribune, September 10, 2003

On the heels of the second anniversary of the worst terrorist attack in the nation's history, Lake County officials approved a Mutual Aid measure to assist four other counties in the event of emergencies.

Walcott Firefighters Snare Federal Grant

North Scott Press, September 10, 2003

Walcott Fire Department has won a \$26,701 grant in the 11th round of the federal government's 2003 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program and is now among more than 2,600 fire departments that have received nearly \$170 million to support their role as first responders in the neighborhoods and communities they serve.

District Seeks to be Part of Emergency Plan

The Saratogian, September 10, 2003

The Ballston Spa school board is expected to approve tonight an intermunicipal agreement to allow the town of Malta to use district resources during emergencies as part of their efforts to further upgrade the town's emergency preparedness plans.

Emergency Crews Test Skills in Disaster Drill

Payson Roundup, September 9, 2003

As the second anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks nears, Rim country emergency crews flexed their muscles last week during a disaster drill -- a plan that evolved in response to the terrorists' attacks and which puts the Hospital Emergency Incident Command system into place.

At the Forefront of Emergency Preparedness

Washington Post, September 7, 2003

Now, two years after the attacks, there are more than 700 Citizen Corps Council organizations across the country, but as one of the first to organize, the Arlington council has been called on to contribute recommendations to other states and participate on panels.

Homeland Security Money goes to First Responders

Star-Tribune, September 7, 2003

About half of the \$21 million the state of Wyoming has doled out in homeland security dollars since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks has been spent on first responders -- firemen, policemen, emergency medical technicians and coroners.

Most Businesses have Emergency Preparedness Plans

HR Next, September 8, 2003

Nearly all small and midsize businesses have taken at least some steps to protect themselves against an emergency, according to a national survey conducted by The Hartford Financial Services Group Inc.

- [Securing the Workplace...What Every Business Needs to Know](#), *Business Wire*, September 10

Poll Reveals Northeast is Least Prepared

American Red Cross Press Release, September 8, 2003

Just days before the second anniversary of one of the most devastating disasters on American soil, the American Red Cross released [poll results](#) that the Northeast is least prepared for a disaster; people are less confident about being prepared at work than at home; and there is a greater need for Americans to translate confidence and awareness into action.

Authorities Test Terrorism Preparedness at Downtown Building

Press Telegram, September 9, 2003

In another test of its preparedness for terrorism, emergency personnel in Los Angeles evacuated up to 5,000 people from a downtown high rise giving the Los Angeles Fire Department a chance to practice high-rise evacuations, including techniques to check dozens of floors for victims, simulate rescues of disabled people and activate its fleet based at Van Nuys Airport.

In Post-9/11 Fairfax, Defense Never Rests

Times Community, September 9, 2003

In some cases, Fairfax County has been able to keep pace with the federal homeland security initiatives, but, in many instances, businesses and local government simply do not have the resources to devote to security.

Monroe to Test Alert Signal

Democrat and Chronicle, September 11, 2003

By November, Monroe County will be the first county in the nation able to independently trigger local emergency alerts using a federal weather radio system.

Law Enforcement Ready to Respond in Case of Attack

Delta Democrat Times, September 11, 2003

In the aftermath of September 11, the Greenville Police Department have been trained to make them more aware of operational security in addition to working with the Fire Department, city emergency preparedness, the mayor's office and other department heads to strengthen emergency preparedness.

Effort Launched to Make Florida's Schools Safer

Orlando Sentinel, September 11, 2003

Florida's Education Commissioner announced a new effort creating a clearinghouse of information for school administrators and parents on school-safety issues and emergency-preparedness plans for all levels of education, from elementary schools to the state's universities.

Local, Federal Efforts Combine for Preparedness

Billings Gazette, September 11, 2003

After 9/11, Yellowstone's Local Emergency Planning Committee created a response plan to deal with a terrorist attack which included the creation of the Unified Health Command, consisting of representatives of the hospitals and the county health department, all law enforcement agencies including the FBI, and the Billings and Lockwood fire departments.

Communication Plays Key Role in Homeland Security at Local Level

Rockdale Citizen, September 11, 2003

Efforts for homeland security in Rockdale County, similar to national efforts, are multi-faceted and dispersed including communication efforts in which a mutual aid channel spanning multiple jurisdictions allows personnel responding to calls outside of their district to communicate with local personnel, as well as the local communication center.

RELATED INFORMATION

RECENT REPORTS

- [Chemical Weapons: Sustained Leadership, Along With Key Strategic Management Tools, Is Needed to Guide DOD's Destruction Program](#), GAO-03-1031, September 2003
- [American Red Cross American Red Cross Disaster and Emergency Preparedness Poll](#), American Red Cross, September 2003
- [Aviation Security: Progress Since September 11th and the Challenges](#), GAO-03-1150T, September 2003

The information contained in this newsletter was collected from Internet sources. Opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the official position of the Department of Homeland Security or FEMA's Preparedness Division.